

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-12 SAJ-01 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-14 RSC-01

L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12

PRS-01 NIC-01 INRE-00 RSR-01 /103 W
----- 100757

P R 201445 Z MAR 73

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1548

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 0484

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, WB, UR, YO

SUBJECT: DETENTION OF SOVIET AND YUGOSLAV EMBASSY WIVES FOR
SHOPLIFTING

1. MISSION WAS INFORMED AT 1400 MARCH 19 BY BERLIN POLICE THAT THEY WERE DETAINING WIFE OF SOVIET MILITARY ATTACHE IN EAST BERLIN, MRS. VINOGRADOV, AND ANOTHER WOMAN, WHO AT THAT POINT HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED BY MRS. VINOGRADOV ONLY AS YUGOSLAV CITIZEN. EACH WAS ACCUSED OF TAKING TWO SYNTHETIC PEARL NECKLACES FROM DEPARTMENT STORE. SECOND WOMAN, WHO LATER IDENTIFIED HERSELF AS WIFE OF YUGOSLAV MILITARY ATTACHE IN EAST BERLIN, VASILJEVIC, ALSO HAD CURTAIN MATERIAL AND SWEATER IN HER POSSESSION WITHOUT RECEIPTS. MRS. VINOGRADOV EVENTUALLY PRODUCED RECEIPT FOR ONE OF HER TWO NECKLACES.

2. MISSION PROTOCOL OFFICER AND PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISER WENT TO NEUKOELLN POLICE STATION, WHERE WOMEN WERE BEING HELD, AND MISSION ADVISED SOVIET EMBASSY AND YUGOSLAV MILITARY MISSION OF THEIR DETENTION. WHEN SOVIET EMBASSY PROTOCOL OFFICER AND CONSUL ARRIVED AT 1715, THEY WERE PROVIDED WITH SUMMARY OF CHARGES AND MRS. VINOGRADOV WAS RELEASED IN FORMER'S CUSTODY. BOTH SOVIETS WERE APOLOGETIC
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FOR INCONVENIENCE CAUSED US. THEY SAID CASE WAS A BIT TOO "HOT" FOR THEIR LEVEL AND MRS. VINOGRADOV WOULD BE DELIVERED TO SOVIET DCM IN EAST BERLIN. YUGOSLAV MILITARY MISSION WAS UNABLE TO SEND OFFICER TO STATION AND MRS. VASILJEVIC WAS RELEASED AT 1745 IN HUSBAND'S CUSTODY. HE WAS ALSO GIVEN SUMMARY OF CHARGES.

3. SPRINGER PRESS PICKED UP STORY SHORTLY AFTER ARREST (EVEN BEFORE ACCOUNT HAD GONE OUT OVER POLICE TELEX) AND STORIES APPEARED IN SOME MORNING PAPERS. WE HAVE BEEN RESPONDING "NO COMMENT" TO PRESS. IN RESPONSE TO MARCH 20 TELEPHONE INQUIRY FROM YUGOSLAV MILITARY MISSION, WE SAID MRS. VASILJEVIC HAD BEEN RELEASED AS COURTESY AND DECISION WHETHER TO RESPOND TO CHARGES WAS UP TO YUGOSLAVS. KLEIN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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